

H. Last

TWO NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *ZYRAS*
(SUBGEN. *CAMONIA*) COLLECTED BY PROF. G. SCORTECCI
IN SOMALILAND

(*Coleoptera*, *Staphylinidae*, *Aleocharinae*)

The two following species described as new to science were contained in material of the « Museo Civico di Storia Naturale » in Milan, collected by prof. G. Scortecchi in Somaliland, which was kindly submitted to me by the Director, dr. Ed. Moltoni, and by the entomological Curator, prof. C. Conci.

***Zyras* (*Camonia*) *scortecchii* sp. n.**

This species is very similar to those in the subgenus *Glossacantha* with its very stout antennae and very short second segment, but the elytra have very distinct reticulation which assigns it to the subgenus *Camonia*. In build it is like *Zyras* (*Glossacantha*) *dispar* Boh., but the puncturation of the elytra is finer, less shining, and the male has the head broadly depressed. Although it is one of the larger species of the subgenus, it is smaller than *Zyras* (*Camonia*) *gedyei* Bernh., and the last segment of the antennae is not longer than the three penultimate together as in that species; it differs from *Z.* (*Camonia*) *imperialis* Bernh., by not having the elytra asperately punctured and by the absence of the two tufts of setae between the bases of the antennae of the male; from *Z.* (*Camonia*) *militaris* Cam., it differs in having the flattened central area between the bases of the antennae of the male, broader and very finely reticulate (in *militaris* it is strongly shagreened), the pronotum is more nearly quadrate (5.5; 4.5) (*militaris* 5; 5.5) and it is not distinctly laterally sinuate. The male does not have a distinct elongate median depression on

the pronotum; the elytra are shorter (6; 5.5) they are more strongly punctured, and more shining. Red-brown, except head and tergites five to eight black, the latter often with a reddish apical border.

Head transverse (5.5; 2) very finely but distinctly punctured, except a very small central area which is reticulate, in the male broadly depressed, and with a flat central area between the bases of the antennae which has very fine confused reticulation, and is bordered along the base with a row of closely set punctures, eyes very large and convex, their longitudinal diameter four times the length of the temples, their facets larger than the reticulation of head. Antennae very robust, second segment less than half the length of the first which is deeply sinuate at the apex, third segment twice the length of the second, broadened at apex, segments four to ten, twice as broad as long, last segment acuminate and compressed at apex, a little longer than the two penultimate together, very finely setose and with longer black setae. Pronotum slightly transverse (5.5: 4.5) almost as broad as head, finely regularly punctured, with fine distinct reticulation, moderately shining, sinuate at posterior third, anterior corners a little more distinct than posterior, all borders narrowly margined; a shallow depression opposite scutellum and two rather larger punctures on the disc.

Elytra transverse (6: 5.5) broader than pronotum, finely regularly punctured, with fine distinct reticulation, posterior and sutural margins rather broadly bordered, the former not sinuate. Scutellum reticulate but impunctate.

Abdomen shining, glabrous, tergites in the male very sparingly punctured, more densely in the female, with distinct transverse reticulation in both sexes; third tergite of male with two lateral prongs which vary considerably in length, several granules and « teeth » on the seventh and eighth tergites, more developed on the latter, where the apical margin is sinuate; tergites in the female simple.

Length 9 mm.

Holotype ♂ : Somalia Sett., Gardo, m 810, 21-X-57 (G. Scortecchi); two Paratypes ♂ and ♀ same data in the collection of Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan. One paratype ♂, same locality, 22-X-57 (G. Scortecchi), kindly given for my own collection.

Zyras (Camonia) dominus sp. n.

This species is a little smaller than *Zyras (Camonia) scorteccii* sp. n., and also differs in having the pronotum impunctate, the elytra less strongly punctured and, in the male, in having two tufts of setae between the bases of the antennae and having the head much less punctured.

Head black, abdomen, except third tergite, reddish-black, otherwise reddish yellow.

Head transverse (5: 2.25) strongly, finely reticulate, very finely and sparingly punctured near inner margins of eyes, which are large, very convex, and with their longitudinal diameter four times the length of the temples. In the unique male type, the head is deeply and broadly depressed, with two small tufts of setae between the bases of the antennae: on either side of the depressed vertex are two oval-shaped areas of close erect setae. (I have not, so far seen anything like this in any male of any other species of the subgenus). Antennae brighter in colour, but not quite so robust as in *scorteccii* sp. n. Second segment one third the length of the first, which is narrower at base, third segment twice the length of the second, broadened at the apex, segments four to ten transverse, segments nine to eleven twice as broad as long, last segment not quite equal to the length of the three penultimate together, all segments finely setose, and with longer black setae from apical rims.

Pronotum slightly transverse (5.5: 5) dull, impunctate, except for two discal punctures, and two in a line with these and the anterior corners, weakly laterally sinuate at posterior third; all corners evident, all margins bordered, anterior margin more convex. rather flat on disc.

Elytra transverse (6: 5) more shining than pronotum, finely reticulate, and finely, regularly punctured, not sinuate at postero-external corners, posterior margin narrowly, sutural margin, more broadly bordered.

Abdomen finely but distinctly reticulate, but not transverse, reticulate as in *scorteccii*, rather densely punctured at base of fifth tergite, very sparingly on others. Third tergite in the male type specimen has four lateral prongs the outer pair longer and more parallel,

the inner pair shorter, with broader base but more strongly acuminate, inner apical margin of tergite sinuate; tergites five to seven with several irregular depressions, apex of eighth tergite straight.

Legs, long, and finely setose.

Length 7.5 mm.

Holotype ♂ unique: Somalia, Rocca Littorio, Luglio 1931 (G. Scortecci), in the collection of Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan.